



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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REGULATION OF HIGH SEAS SALMON FISHING ANNOUNCED

At the urgent request of the United States Section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Administrator of the Alaska Commercial Fisheries, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today signed an emergency order to put into immediate effect in the general area of Bristol Bay, a ban on the establishment of a new high seas salmon fishery on the red salmon of that area.

The Department has long planned such action and notice of such intention had been filed. Subsequently information from Alaska revealed a serious threat of early establishment of the high seas fishery which would jeopardize the Department's salmon conservation policy in the Bristol Bay area and further delay the salmon rehabilitation program which is so necessary to the welfare of Alaska.

Severe regulatory measures are in effect in Bristol Bay to arrest the decline and commence restoration of the runs that for years were three times their present size. These measures, among other things, restrict commercial fishing exclusively to gill nets, not more than 150 fathoms long, limit motor-propelled fishing boats to an over-all length of 32 feet, and limit the number of days fishing per week in accordance with the number of units of gear operating in each district.

With approximately half the number of units of gear operated in other recent years, and with only a four-week season, fishing is limited to two days per week in the Nushagak district, $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per week in the Egegik district, and three days per week in the Naknek-Kvichak and Ugashik districts. Further adjustments on fishing time are made weekly to meet changing conditions in the fishery and in the abundance of the runs.

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